

Boulevard Planning Group
Minutes/Summary, August 4, 2011
Boulevard Fire and Rescue Inc. Training Room, 39919 Highway 94/Ribbonwood

1. Call to Order: 7:14 PM

2. Determination of Quorum/Roll Call:

Members Present: Rett Lawrence, Patricia Stuart, Donna Tisdale (Chair), Tammy Daubach. Absent: Jeffrey McKernan (excused) and Chris Noland (excused).

3. Approval of Minutes:

At Chair's request, review of the July Minutes was deferred to next month's meeting due to lack of adequate review time.

4. Correspondence:

- A. (7/15) Threshold decision letter was received from Patrick Brown, county Project Manager addressed to Tule Wind on their plan amendment authorization). The Plan Amendment request will move forward with the Tule Wind Major Use Permit process. Tule Wind was cautioned not to take that as an indication that approval will be granted.
- B. (7/18 :) – Plan.com letter to County announcing that AT&T has withdrawn the MUP for their Ruiz / Chapman Ranch cell facility. No explanation was given. Chair reported the withdrawal may have nothing to do with group's objections related to cumulative EMF, Radio Frequency and Microwave Radiation impacts. There was speculation that withdrawal was tied to the elimination of certain sites based on proposed merger with AT&T and T-Mobile.
- C. (7/27) Enel Green Energy – Jewel Valley Wind Energy Project - EGP sent a letter notifying construction of their MET facilities on 8/15/11 to Highway Patrol, Cal Fire, Rural Fire, Cleveland National Forest Service, San Diego County Sheriff, Federal Aviation Administration, Naval Station North Island and SDG&E that they were getting ready to start. The Chair received an e-mail on August 2, 2011 stating that they were already starting construction. When asked about the timing difference, Jennifer Purzynski informed the Chair, via e-mail, that the actual MET Towers would not be erected until the August 15th date, so there was no need to notify agencies about potential aviation impacts.
- D. (8/2) U.S. Forest Service –In response to questions from the Chair. Two propositions are pending for wind energy planning permits in Cleveland National Forest (CNF). Evidence that competition exists and requires that a prospectus be issued to select an applicant. CNF further stated that given their work load, and projected program of work in 2012, the prospectus may not be issued at 2013 or later.

5. New Business:

A. **Presentation from County Department of Public Works (DPW) on Realignment of Ribbonwood Road Curves:**

- Dion McMicheaux, Project Manager, and Tom Hart spoke on behalf of DPW
- Ribbonwood Road sight-line improvement is on the list of local projects.
- DPW has looked at the site and initiated project surveys.
- Ribbonwood is a Rural light collector and not on the circulation element.
- They are looking at line-of-sight, boulder obstruction south of Opalaka, and drainage issues.
- The Chair stated that this realignment project was proposed by the group years ago, at the request of a previous member who was concerned with the line-of-sight problem. She suggested that since Tule Wind is proposing that Ribbonwood be their main access road, and will need to be widened and upgraded; they should pay for the realignment and repairs of the road -- not the County taxpayers.
- DPW had planned to start designs and initiate the environmental phases that should take about 15 months but that may change with the Tule Wind Project.
- DPW will try to tag onto these other projects. They will talk with Pat Brown, Tule Wind Project Manager, and with Jim Whalen about another MUP for the Hamann Companies for Rough Acres.
- The Chair asked about proposed wind and solar energy project developers contacting the DPW for use of the County's public road right of ways for their new transmission lines.
- Mr. McMicheaux stated he was unaware of that and would look into that issue as well.

- Resident Jerry Yops (retired CHP officer) stated that Ribbonwood Road had never been paved. There is just a light layer of asphalt, with no base, on the previous dirt road. It was never meant to accommodate heavy truck traffic. He asked that Tule Wind, Border Patrol, and other project developers pay for all road improvements and upgrades.
- Richard Crompton is the head of DPW

B. Overview of SDG&E's 2 Power Purchase Agreements for 9 Boulevard CPV Tracking Solar Projects:

- **Jim Whalen spoke for Soitec projects: LanWest, LanEast, Rugged Solar, Tierra Del Sol**
- The Chair discussed the Power Purchase Agreements and pointed out that much of the application was redacted and confidential which is controversial at best. There is no way to compare prices or alternatives.
- The Chair also pointed out that these are new modules that have not been approved by the CEC, according to the CEC website.
- See Item 6E below, starting on page 3.

6. Updates and Potential Action Items:

A. SDG&E Community Update by Cameron Durckel:

- **Sol Orchard/Sol Focus CPV tracking solar projects:** Durckel said he doesn't know about specific site locations for SDG&E's 5 Sol Focus CPV solar projects (signed Power Purchase Agreements) planned for Boulevard.
- He is on the transmission side and only knows what is disclosed in public documents.
- Independent developers can share their information when they file their plans.
- Sol Orchard /Sol Focus projects may need some "bolstering of system" for transmission.

B. SDG&E's 2 Billion Sunrise Powerlink Update:

- SDG&E's report s that 48 towers completed, mid-September for post nesting season overhead restart.
- 3 underground vaults are left in Alpine. Moving along quickly.

C. SDG&E's \$285 Million Eco Substation:

- The Final EIR/EIS is expected to be pushed back to late September or later.
- The Rural Fire District's revocation of the fire plan was just a misunderstanding and they are working through that issue.
- Durckel said the PUC was the problem -- new regulatory ground.
- At no time did SDG&E ask for any regulatory relief
- The county was asking for clarification from the PUC.
- SDG&E will sit down with the fire departments.
- There were comments made that other information had been relayed by PUC and Rural Fire reps.

List of questions/answers:

- Where are the 5 Boulevard locations and new transmission lines for the solar projects? Durckel stated that he does not know at this point and his understanding from the power purchase agreement is that the projects will pole within the distribution system. The transmission system may need bolstering but not new lines.
- SDG&E requests for new 100 ft. easements – wood to steel and looking at a number of projects. They will know more when the separate energy projects are filed and can talk about specifics. They are still looking at routes. There is a public process that all projects have to go through.
- The Chair stated that the Invenergy Wind CALISO queue had been in place since 2006 and the interconnection studies were shown as complete on the printout she had in hand. SDG&E knows where that line will connect.
- The Chair stated that she still cannot find the paperwork approving the wood to steel projects already completed in Boulevard--despite numerous requests and searches. Durckel said that he will find out. Donna's concern is that there are the old 12' wide on- center Mtn. Empire Co-op easement agreements that were never surveyed. And new larger poles for increased amperage and EMF are planned for installation that could benefit SDG&E's for-profit Shu'luuk Wind energy deal with Invenergy and the Campo Band.
- Durckel said he will send a process of what the each project has to go through to enable us to follow the projects to make it more predictable.

- When the final EIR/EIS is released there will be two public hearings one in Boulevard and one in Jacumba for further opportunity to discuss issues.
- He will check on the activity at the batch plant in Jacumba at request of neighbors.
- When are you starting construction on restricted public lands? They have permission to construct now but there are conditions of those permits. Nesting season/biological etc. Nesting over mid-September and will come back again at the end of December. He said that he would give our community heads up when construction is starting so we know what is going on and what to expect.
- Donna asked about the removal and replacement of some tower footings in Ocotillo? He was not aware of that and will check for us.
- What are rate recovery requests before the PUC? SDG&E is a regulated utility so everything they do is part of the PUC. They have a link on their page with all of their proceedings before the PUC. Defining rate recovery projects are challenging and certain bills that passed allow relief. Durckel said he will break it down and get back to us about increased rates to the consumer. (www.sdge.com link on rates& regulation)
- Chair stated that SDG&E gets about 12-13% guaranteed Return on Investment for new infrastructure: Sunrise Powerlink - \$3 Billion, \$285 million ECO-SubStation, they also get reimbursed for Power Purchase Agreements, and make a profit from Renewable Energy Credits.
- What is the cost per kW wind energy versus other forms? Power Purchase Agreements are confidential. How you formulate numbers is difficult but he will share some studies to give insight. Breakdown the cost comparison is difficult and he doesn't have access to that information. Donna thought there was a flat 2 cents per KW hour incentive in addition to higher energy prices for renewables -he will double check.
- How much will each rate payer pay for Sunrise over a period of time? A lot of that is still being determined by the formulas of the PUC. SDG&E rate payers in San Diego and Orange County cover 10% of all infrastructure projects over the life of the project (58 years)
- When are they going to look at cumulative impacts under CEQA?
- Where will the water come from for the cement facility? He will check with the batch plant but they have agreed not to use ground water for any of their projects. Unless as a business they have a separate entity with their own water like Jacumba Water District. One man is threatening to sue because they won't use his water. Right now they are shipping in water from various sources - he will check and get us more information.
- Who is going to make sure the birds are done nesting? They have inspectors on all the sites from the forest service and other consultants. If you are aware that there is a nest, you can call the wildlife agencies and they will plot to avoid them and. All their pilots now have a GPS that gives them the locations of nests and properties not to fly over – they must be 300 feet above ground level.
- Did you ever find out about safe at home youth challenge program? He will get us the information. Tammy Daubach said it started in July, August and September and almost over– Penny McGuire is the contact and he will check.

D. Sempra's Energia Sierra Juarez Wind & Cross Border Gen-Tie Line:

- DOE FEIS and County MUP are pending along with PUC/BLM FEIR/EIS.

E. Rough Acres Ranch- 3 Pending MUP Applications: (Jim Whalen and Mike Armstrong spoke on behalf of Soitec projects)

- They passed out a Soitec/Concentrix PR piece and another brochure explaining how the technology works.
- They were in the field today (Aug 4) and are going to the county on August 5th to give them a big picture overview.
- Two projects areas: LanWest and LanEast (Lansing). They have PPA's signed with SDG&E but they have not been approved by the PUC yet.
- 5 MW LanWest will be the first project.
- 20MW LanEast will be second.
- They were asked about the LanWest layout impacts on the vegetation, and rocky hillside area with unique boulders, willows, oaks, and LanEast with the wetlands and other resources.

- They will make some adjustments according to topography. They will have a caretaker for the property project who knows this area. A friend of Whalen's.
- The neighbor adjacent to LanWest has been contacted to acquire the right of way across their land to connect to Boulevard Substation.
- How many acres does the project encompasses? 7-8 acres per 1.26 MW
- The PPA states 29KW but the usable power is 22KW.
- It takes 1.5-2 yards of cement (3500 psi) for each 10-17 foot deep pedestal hole.
- They will do a drilling test to find out where the water is. Today as they were walking around water was at ground 0 and got wet feet. They found the pipe that drained water from the hillside.
- What will happen to the 500 year old trees? They will be leaving the trees.
- Big horns have been seen in the LanEast area, grazing and eating at previous resident's haystack. They state that there technology will not interfere with the sheep.
- There are 2 other property owners that are participating in the 700-1000 acre "Rugged Acres Project". The locations were not identified other than they are Not public property.
- The Chair stated that this area is the entrance to the McCain Valley Recreation and Resource Conservation Area and the historic heart of Boulevard / Manzanita, and that these industrial scale projects are being resisted.
- They did not want to comment on the Tierra Del Sol project location but the Chair pointed out the TDS address was disclosed in the PPA.
- 69kV line is expected to be co-located with Tule Wind's 138 kV line and will hang below on the 2 arms on either side of the new 138kV Tule Wind power line poles. The studies are underway biology etc. They used Sunrise and Iberdrola's reports.
- Concerns were expressed about the heavy industrial appearance of the many new high voltage power lines and poles that will alter the rural and scenic character of the area, and could potentially line most of our public roads due to all the new project proposals that lead back to the Boulevard Substation.
- The Chair asked about protection of all the cultural resources in the project area and if they have spoken with local tribes about those impacts. Not yet.
- The Chair reminded them of their promise to bring a list of all the financials, the incentives, charitable and tax breaks for the projects. (Investment tax credit 30%, etc). They did not remember making that promise.
- Lansing still owns the LanWest and LanEast properties with lease contract
- SB14-cumulative impacts would allow for infrastructure zone to keep tax base here. No public vote on infrastructure zone.
- Concerns were expressed about this SB 14 issue and as well, including perception that developers and absentee land owners will receive the most benefits while the impacted community ends up with loss of property value and character, and adverse impacts to insurance and utility rates and public health and safety.

F. Tule Wind LLC's Proposed Plan Amendment Authorization (PPA) and Proposed Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for Wind Energy: As stated in the August 2 letter from the County, the PPA will be processed along with the project MUP, with no promises made.

G. \$500 Million Tule Wind:

- Joint PUC/BLM FEIR/EIS has been pushed back again.

H. \$300-\$500 Million Campo Nation/Invenergy/SDG&E's 160-250 MW Shu'Luuk Wind Project:

- Scoping is closed. Draft EIS is pending.

I. Enel's 158 MW Jewel Valley Wind & 10MW Solar: MET towers planned for installation mid-August.

J. New \$29 Million Boulevard Border Patrol Station:

- 3 wells were drilled 1 has been abandoned and capped off. The other two have good water. They have not gone through testing to know how much water.
- Contractors have been clearing brush preparing for construction.

- BP will try to shield the lights as much as possible but they must comply with specific security requirements. The lights will be downcast.
- The buildings by the hotel will be closed down and they are discussing what to do with the buildings at this time.
- There will be no tours of this secure federal facility as there were with the other BP station. They learned their lesson from allowing previous tours.
- BP may let the community know about the outside and it is a two story building.
- New station will be 46,000 sq ft with mechanic and horse patrol facilities, dog kennels, and a helipad but no hanger.
- PB Community Watch / Boulevard /Jacumba meeting is set for 6 PM August 16th at Jacumba Library

K. Boulevard/Jacumba/La Posta Fire Safe Council:

- Free wood chipping will be done on 8/13 from 8am-3pm and you need to deliver your wood to the chip site. The next meeting will be 8/29 at the Jacumba Library at 6:30PM.
- Community Watch Program – Everyone is invited to join for all Boulevard/Jacumba residents. The next meeting will be 8/16 at the Jacumba Library at 6PM. They will be doing a home survey to see if it is secure or desirable for the wrong element to want to break into. This program is intended to help our community be safer. Flyers were handed out.
- To be added to Old Hwy 80 Network E-mail alerts– drug busts other illegal activity. Contact Mark Ostrander or Agent Corey Anderson (619) 766-3000 at the station.

L. Boulevard/Jacumba Revitalization Report:

- Visit the new website at www.sandiegobackcountry.org – If you are an artist of any kind send your bio's and photo and you will be featured on the website for free. The next meeting on September 6th at the Jacumba Library at 6:30PM
- They will be doing a volunteer fair on October 1st and any one from Churches to various groups can come out and have a free booth to get your information out to let people know what's happening in the area.

M. EMERGENCY ACTION TAKEN ON NON-AGENDA ITEM – REDIRECTION OF VERIZON SERVICE

- Planner Lawrence made this request for emergency action, with offer to draft the requested letter, reporting that Verizon had recently redirected their White Star signal towards "their customer base on I-8". This action has reduced cell service for rural residents, Border Patrol, other law enforcement, and emergency services personnel. Some residents rely on Verizon having given up land lines in order to save money in these hard times. It was agreed that Verizon's action has created a public health and safety concern that merits emergency action. *M/S: Lawrence/Stuart: Send letter to Verizon expressing public health and safety concerns. Passed 5-0-0*

7. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

- There is an August 22, 2011 deadline on public comment on the state fire fee. Comments should include all the energy and infrastructure projects that the state is approving, in the fire prone backcountry, creating multiple fire hazards and risks and impediments to fire fighting.
- San Diego Astronomy Association's August 20th Star Party is open to the public.

8. Adjournment: 9:08 PM

Approved by Group on Dec 1, 2011

Donna Tisdale, Chair 

For more information, contact

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